(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Goldern Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.

(v) Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(d) and (e) The manufacturers of the medicines against whom Health Alerts have been issues by regulatory agencies of other countries have been asked to get their medicines tested for heavy metal and in case they are herbo-mettaic drugs to get their safety/toxicity tested. As per Ayurveda principles herbo-mettaic compounds following the detoxification process outlined in classicial texts are safe.

CAG Report on hospital facilities

4065. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual report of the CAG reveals that the hospitals in the country even in the capital lack essential medicines, equipments etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the ambulances are also not used to serve the patients; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In the Audit Report Vol.-II (Performance Audit of Civil Department) Delhi of CAG for the year 2005-06 observations have been made about functioning of four hospitals in Delhi namely Lok Nayak Hospital and Deen Dayal Hospital under the Government of NCT of Delhi, Hindu Rao Hospital under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Charak Palika Hospital under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, necessary equipments and medicines are available. The ambulances in the hospital are used for the use of patients.

Guidelines for Blood Banks

4066 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any orders regarding guidelines and accredition norms for the blood banks spread throughout the country have been issued so as to ensure prevention of infection with HIV and other diseases during blood transfusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether other important norms have also been added to these orders alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Standards for Blood Banks and Blood Transfusion Services have been issued by National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health, Government of India after due approval of National Blood Transfusion Council. The standards include details on all importants areas of functioning of Blood Banks. The testing of transfusion transmissible infections, including HIV and hepatitis, is mandatory for the blood banks to obtain a license from the Drug Control Authorities.

(c) Confirmatory tests and post test counselling will be done in the large blood banks collecting more than 3000 units per year for persons who were found HIV positive after the first test used for screening of blood.

Promotion of telemedicine

4067. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the President of International Society for Telemedicine and e-health, India is poised for big growth in telemedicine;